

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2015

REL 3310

INTRO TO ASIAN RELIGIONS

Time: 11:00PM-11:50PM

Instructor: Unnata Pragma

Office: Located in the Religious Studies Dept. DM building, 3rd floor. Room No.320C

Office Hours: M/W 12:00 to 1:00 pm by appointment

Email: upragya@fiu.edu

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

Pulse of Wisdom : The Philosophies of India, China, and Japan-Textbook ONLY by Michael C. Brannigan (Paperback - 2000) - Student Edition

- Publisher: Wadsworth, Inc; 2nd edition (2000)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0534746713
- ISBN-13: 978-0534746711

Additional reading material is available on the black board.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will analyze in a critical and analytical fashion, religions of Asia. The course will mainly explore Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. It will also go over Confucius and Daoist philosophy. The course is geared towards a philosophical discussion of the Asian religion. The course will assist in enriching the students with the nature of Asian religions being intertwined with intense philosophy. The course going over the history will then ride into the concept of reality, self, concept ethics and death. The course will serve as a platform to have a comparative analysis of the religions of Asian being diverse and similar. The course assignments will directly

involve the students to peep into the religions to answer modern ethical questions. The course will be challenging and therefore push students to think critically about the nature of Asian religion in our complex world today.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The class format will include lectures, films and student presentations. Each student will have four class exams, a term paper and class presentation along with one Asian religious site visits. All written work must be typed and double-spaced using a 1” margin all around, a 12 point font letter size and a word count listed at the top of the page. PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will take off points if the above writing assignment requirements are not adhered to. All written work will need to be submitted through the online service www.turnitin.com. Please make sure to sign up or register on the site directly before your first assignment is due.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- (1) Explain various definitions of Asian “religion”
- (2) Analyze the historical development of the Asian Religions.
- (3) See the ways in which Asian religions and Philosophies are both similar yet different
- (4) Use an objective, critical eye to evaluate religious philosophies of Asian religions.
- (5) Understand the difference between theory and practice in a religious context

COURSE POLICIES:

I. ATTENDANCE and CLASS PARTICIPATION

It is key for students to attend class in order to be successful in this course. If a student arrives late or leaves early it is BOTH disruptive to the lecturer and students alike. To alleviate this from happening I will count ONE absence for every TWO late arrivals or early departures. Class participation is also important so that students can challenge each other. Dialogue is highly encouraged in this class. Attendance and class participation is vital to a university education and will make up 10% of the course grade.

II. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as “literally theft,” and will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of may include:

- (1) A written work that is ENTIRELY stolen from another source
- (2) Using quotations from source without proper citation

(3) Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation

Students are expected to UNDERSTAND the definition of plagiarism. To view the University Code of Academic Integrity please visit

<http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm>

When all else fails; ASK the instructor for help. If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.

III. POP QUIZZES

There may be random pop quizzes given on the reading material. Be prepared for class, ESPECIALLY on days that a class discussion on an article is assigned. Quiz grades will be factored into the attendance and class participation grade, which is 10% of the final grade.

III. LATE PAPERS

Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor and is therefore, highly discouraged! **No late submissions will be accepted with the commencement of Exam Week.**

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

I. IN CLASS EXAMS:

There will be four exams in this course. The format will include true/false, matching, essay, and short answer.

II. Term paper and Class Presentation:

Each student will choose one Asian religion and any one Ethical Issues. The term paper will be a research analysis of the ethical issues from the perspective of the chosen religion. At the end of the semester, class presentation will be given by each student through power-point (containing at least seven to ten slides) about the same research undertaken.

I expect at least five academic sources to be used in the paper. Do not refer to wiki. At least three sources must be any academic book related to the topic. You could use either Chicago, APA or MLA style for your citation. The instructor will provide further detail as the semester continues.

⚡ If you miss the opportunity of presenting in class as per the schedule. pls contact right away to finalize the presentation date and time.

III. SITE VISIT REPORTS:

Because there is an abundance of Asian related sites around South Florida, this course will require that each student visit one site and report on them. This assignment is to educate the student on the practice level which is equally as important to the theory level discussed in class. **Make sure your experience of the site visit is compared with your theoretical learning and understanding.** More information will be provided later.

COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Attendance and Class Participation	5%
Exams (4 in total)	60% (15% each)
Term Paper	15%
Class Presentation	10 %
Site Visits	10%

Grading scale:

93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
67-69 D+

63-66 D

60-62 D-

59 – 0 F

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Day	Subject and Study Material
Mon Jan 12	Introduction
Wed Jan 14	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 4-14
Fri Jan 16	Concept of Reality - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 57-65
Mon Jan 19	No Class
Wed Jan 21	Concept of Self , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 129-135
Fri Jan 23	Theory of Knowledge , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 189-198
Mon Jan 26	Concept of Ethics- 250 to 256
Wed Jan 28	Concept of Death- pp 322-327
Fri Jan 30	Video
Mon Feb 2	Hinduism Test
Buddhism	
Wed Feb 4	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 14-23
Fri Feb 6	Concept of Reality, Michael C. Brannigan, pp 65-70
Mon Feb 9	Concept of Self, Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp135-140
Wed Feb 11	Theory of Knowledge, Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 198-204
Fri Feb 13	Concept of Ethics, Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 257-262
Mon Feb 16	Concept of Death - Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 328-333
Wed Feb 18	Class catch up
Fri Feb 20	Video

Mon Feb 23	Buddhism test
Jainism	Articles on Black Board)
Wed Feb 25	History
Fri Feb 27	Concept of Reality
Mon Mar 2	Concept of Self (Visit web site- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWttCv0p6WQ&feature=related)
Wed Mar 4	Theory of Knowledge
Fri Mar 6	Concept of Ethics in Jainism
Mon Mar 9	Spring break
Wed Mar 11	Spring break
Fri Mar 13	Spring break
Mon Mar 16	Concept of Death in Jainism
Wed Mar 18	Video
Fri Mar 20	Jainism Test
Mon Mar 23	Class discussion- Pick one religion to debate about it
Wed Mar 25	Class discussion- Pick one religion to debate about it
Fri Mar 27	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pgs. 23-36
Mon Mar 30	Concept of Reality - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 70-80
Wed Apr 1	continues
Fri Apr 3	Ethics, Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 262-267
Mon Apr 6	Concept of Death - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 333-337
Wed Apr 8	Video – Question of balance.
Fri Apr 10	Catch up
Mon Apr 13	Class Presentations (Hinduism)
Wed Apr 15	Class Presentations (Buddhism)
Fri Apr 17	Class Presentations (Jainism)

Mon Apr 20	Class Presentations (Confucianism)
Wed Apr 22	Class Presentations (Daoism)
Fri April 24	<i>Review and catch up (Final Exam)</i>